PROFFERS IN WBDI MTD

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Case 2:24-cv-09033-GW-RAO Document 55

OBJECTIONS AND RESPONSES TO EXTRINSIC MATERIAL PROFFERS IN WARNER BROS. DISCOVERY, INC.'S MOTION TO DISMISS

Plaintiff Alcon Entertainment, LLC ("Plaintiff" or "Alcon") makes the following objections and responses to the proffers of extrinsic material made by defendant Warner Bros. Discovery, Inc. ("WBDI") in connection with WBDI's motion to dismiss Alcon's First Amended Complaint ("FAC," [Dkt. 37]) pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. Pro. 12(b)(6) ("Rule 12(b)(6)") and 8(a) ("WBDI Motion," [Dkt. 49]).

I. RULE 12(b)(6) EXTRINSIC MATERIAL EXCEPTIONS

On a Rule 12(b)(6) motion, a court may consider material external to the challenged pleading and proffered by the movant without treating the motion as made pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 56 (summary judgment), pursuant to three exceptions: 1) exhibits to the complaint ("First Exception"); 2) documents referenced by the complaint, upon which it "necessarily relies," and the authenticity of which are undisputed ("Second Exception"); and 3) matters properly subject to judicial notice ("Third Exception"). *U.S. v. Corinthian Colleges*, 655 F.3d 984, 998-99 (9th Cir. 2011); *Lee v. City of Los Angeles*, 250 F.3d 668, 688 (2001).

II. THE WBDI MOTION'S PROFFERS AND PLAINTIFF'S POSITIONS

PROFFER NO.	DESCRIPTION	PLAINTIFF POSITION
1	"Plaintiff has had a chance to	The statements are
	review the lease agreement	misleading and
	attached to WBDI's motion to	referencing material
	dismiss the original complaint."	extrinsic to the FAC and
	(WBDI Motion at 1:18-21.), and	not subject to any
	all similar factual assertions in the	Exception. Not had
	WBDI Motion on this point, which	Alcon not ever seen the

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1	permeate the WBDI Motion.	document at all before
2		WBDI submitted it to the
3		Court as part of its initial
4		motion to dismiss, Alcon
5		still does not have full
6		access to it in a
7		meaningful way. Musk
8		and Tesla would only
9		provide the unsealed
10		document to Plaintiff's
11		counsel and three
12		executives at Alcon, and
13		those are the only people
14		on the Alcon side who
15		have examined the
16		unsealed document. That
17		means, inter alia, not
18		only has Alcon not had
19		any formal discovery
20		concerning the document,
21		Alcon has also been
22		unable to conduct even
23		any meaningful
24		investigation outside the
25		discovery process, such
26		as consulting with any
27		business people who
28		

		in such agreements and
		in such agreements and
11		the customs and practices
		around them, including
		facial reasonableness or
		excessiveness of license
		fees shown for just a
		physical event allegedly
		with no brand affiliation
		component, and the like.
		The Court should not
		consider any of these
		statements on Fed. R.
		Civ. P. 12(b)(6).
2	"WBDI had no involvement in the	This is a factual assertion
	infringing acts." (WBDI Motion at	outside the FAC, and
	1:21-22.)	contradicting it, and not
		subject to any of the
		Exceptions. The Court
		should not consider it.
3	February 4, 2025 Declaration of	The declaration is
	Rachel Jennings [Dkt. 23-2], and	material extrinsic to the
	all statements therein.	FAC, not subject to any
		Exception. The Court
		should not consider it.
4	Exhibit 1 to February 4, 2025	This is material extrinsic
	Declaration of Rachel Jennings	to the FAC, not subject to
	2	
	3	infringing acts." (WBDI Motion at 1:21-22.) 3 February 4, 2025 Declaration of Rachel Jennings [Dkt. 23-2], and all statements therein. 4 Exhibit 1 to February 4, 2025

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1		[Dkt 23-3, 35-1] (purported Tesla-	any Exception. Whether
2		WBDI Contract) (all versions,	or not the document
3		redacted and unredacted).	might actually be part of
4			documentation of a
5			business relationship
6			between WBDI and Tesla
7			referenced in the FAC
8			and which the FAC says
9			it believes on information
10			and belief exists, Plaintiff
11			does not admit the
12			authenticity of the
13			document. For example,
14			among other concerns,
15			even on the Jennings
16			declaration proffered, the
17			possibility is left open
18			that the document is not
19			the only document
20			reflecting or documenting
21			the entire scope of the
22			business relationship
23			between WBDI and Tesla
24			regarding the event.
25	5	"[A]lleged 'contractual agreement'	These are factual
26		between WBDI and Tesla	assertions of material
27		consists of contractual terms that	extrinsic to the FAC, not
28	L	I	

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1		never existed." (WBDI Motion at	subject to any Exception.
2		2:15-17.); "[A]s the real contract	The Court should not
3		shows – and which Plaintiff	consider them, or any
4		knows, having reviewed the	similar factual assertions
5		contract prior to filing its FAC –	by WBDI along this same
6		[Plaintiff's allegation of a brand	vein.
7		affiliation component to the	
8		business relationship between	
9		Musk and Tesla] is simply not	
10		true." (WBDI Motion at 2:25-27.)	
11		"Nothing could be further from the	
12		truth." (WBDI Motion at 5:18-19.)	
13	5	Exhibit 2 to February 4, 2025	For purposes of the
14		Omnibus Declaration of Chris	Motion, the document
15		Marchese (Recording of October	satisfies the Second
16		10, 2024 We Robot Presentation	Exception. The Court
17		["We Robot Recording"]).	may consider it.
18	6	Alleged Alcon non-ownership of	This is a mixed factual
19		word mark "Blade Runner."	and legal assertion
20		("Plaintiff does not own the 'Blade	outside the FAC, not
21		Runner' name or mark [.]"	subject to any of the
22		[WBDI Motion, 4:19.])	Exceptions, and is also
23			false. Although it did not
24			plead it, Alcon does in
25			fact own a Lanham Act-
26			cognizable ownership
27			interest in the word mark
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1			"Blade Runner." The
2			Court may not consider
3			this proffer.
4	7	"[I]t is WBDI's affiliate that owns	This is a mixed factual
5		the exclusive rights in [the original	and legal assertion
6		1982 "Blade Runner" film].	outside the FAC, not
7			subject to any of the
8			Exceptions, and is also
9			false in the way being
10			presented. Although it
11			did not plead it, Alcon
12			does in fact own a
13			Lanham Act-cognizable
14			ownership interest in the
15			word mark "Blade
16			Runner." A WBDI
17			affiliate owns some
18			exclusive rights in the
19			original 1982 Picture, but
20			Alcon actually owns
21			many of them, including
22			all relevant rights to
23			prepare derivative works
24			to the 1982 Picture. No
25			WBDI affiliate owns
26			exclusive rights in the
27			'Blade Runner' word
28		6	

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1			mark. That is false. The
2			Court may not consider
3			this proffer.
4	8	Implicitly, that there is a prior	This is a factual assertion
5		ruling in this action, or from this	outside the FAC, not
6		judicial officer in a prior action,	subject to any of the
7		"admonishing" Plaintiff or	Exceptions, and is also
8		Plaintiff's counsel for violating	false. There have been no
9		Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a). (WBDI	prior substantive rulings
10		Motion, 18:12-15.)	in this case on any issue.
11			Plaintiff's counsel has
12			been appearing before
13			this judicial officer in
14			cases from time to time
15			for multiple decades and
16			does not recall ever being
17			"admonished" for
18			violating Fed. R. Civ. P.
19			8(a) in any such case.
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27 28 DATED: March 17, 2025 ANDERSON YEH PC

Edward M. Anderson Regina Yeh

Attorneys for Plaintiff

ALCON ENTERTAINMENT, LLC

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